

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 AF-10 DRC-01 IO-14 /155 W

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R 140405Z FEB 74 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0603

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2484

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TH, US

SUBJ: DIEGO GARCIA

REF : A. FBIS BANGKOK D110510Z FEB 74; B. FBIS BANGKOK
D130715 FEB 74; C. FBIS BANGKOK D140300Z FEB 74

1. SAM KRISHNIAH URGED IN HIS FEBRUARY 5 COLUMN (REF A) IN
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"THE NATION" THAT THE LITTORAL COUNTRIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN,

INCLUDING THAILAND, TAKE AN IMMEDIATE STAND ON THE US/UK DECISION TO EXPAND DIEGO GARCIA. KRISHNIAH PRESENTS A GENERALLY BALANCED SURVEY OF THE SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE DIFFERING VIEWS OF CERTAIN LITTORAL COUNTRIES, AND THE PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED NAVAL ACTIVITY WHEN THE SUEZ CANAL IS REOPENED. HE SUGGESTS THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE A CLEAR STAND AT THE FORTHCOMING LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE ON THE MEANING OF THE SOVIET MONOPOLIZATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE US/UK EXPANSION OF DIEGO GARCIA.

2. KRISHNIAH ALSO INTERVIEWED SINGAPORE FOREIGN MINISTER S. RAJARATNAM IN BANGKOK (REF B). HE QUOTES RAJARATNAM ON THE INDIAN OCEAN AS SAYING THAT THE LITTORAL STATES AND SINGAPORE JUST CANNOT CONTINUE TO BE CLAY IN THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO PLAY BIG-POWER POLITICS. RAJARATNAM ADDED THAT IN SINGAPORE'S OPINION, IF ALL THE BIG POWERS COULD NOT BE KEPT OUT OF THE INDIAN OCEAN, IT WAS BETTER TO HAVE ALL OF THEM IN.

3. ANOTHER "NATION" COMMENTARY (REF C) FEBRUARY 11 MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE SCRIPT FOR JUSTIFYING DIEGO GARCIA FROM OUR OWN FILES. IT WAS ACCURATE AND HELPFUL.

4. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL RTG STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT. THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR FEBRUARY 12 THAT RAJARATNAM HAD NOT RAISED THE DIEGO GARCIA ISSUE DURING HIS RECENT VISIT HERE.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUDGET, PRESS COMMENTS, COST ESTIMATES, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, REORGANIZATIONS, PORT FACILITIES, DIEGO GARCIA
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Draft Date: 14 FEB 1974
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Executive Order: GS
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Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <27-Sep-2002 by rowelle0>
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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